

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending in the present application.

Reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sekiguchi.

Claim 1 has been amended thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 4-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Cousin et al.

Sekiguchi does not disclose the simultaneous coating of different ink receiving layers in a wet-on-wet fashion. Cousin et al. discloses in claim 1:

"A recording sheet useful in inkjet recording comprising a substrate having a recording surface containing a cationic polymer and a water soluble polyvalent metal salt, said polymer providing said surface with cationic groups for ionically interacting with an anionic dye and insolubilizing it; wherein at least 3 mol% of the monomeric units making up said polymer are derived from cationic monomers and said salt is a salt of a metal from Group II, Group III, or the Transition Metals of the Periodic Table of Elements."

Cousin et al. discloses overcoating, but contains no disclosure of the simultaneous coating in a wet-on-wet fashion of a plurality of layers with different compositions.

We therefore contend that, neither Sekiguchi or Cousin et al., taken separately or together, provide the technical features of claims 4-6 and 9 or provide a hint or indication of the inventions of claims 4-6 and 9. Therefore claims 4 to 6 and 9 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Cousin et al. be withdrawn.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Cousin et al. as applied above, and further in view of Rabasco.

As described previously, neither Sekiguchi nor Cousin et al. contain disclosure of the simultaneous coating in a wet-on-wet fashion of a plurality of layers with different compositions. Furthermore, Rabasco contains no disclosure of the simultaneous coating in a wet-on-wet fashion of a plurality of layers with different compositions.

Applicants respectfully contend that, since Sekiguchi, Cousin et al. and Rabasdo independently, or taken together, do not teach the invention set forth in claim 7 the rejection is improper and removal is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Cousin et al., as applied above, and further in view of Malhotra et al.

As described previously, neither Sekiguchi nor Cousin et al. contain disclosure of the simultaneous coating in a wet-on-wet fashion of a plurality of layers with different compositions. Furthermore, Malhotra et al. contains no disclosure of the simultaneous coating in a wet-on-wet fashion of a plurality of layers with different compositions.

Applicant respectfully request that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Cousin et al., as applied above, and further in view of Malhotra et al. be withdrawn.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Mueller.

Claim 10 is canceled and all rejections directed thereto are moot.

Mueller was cited to show that it is commonly known that a coating formulation having a surface tension higher than that of a substrate does not wet the substrate thereby providing one of skill in the art guidance on how to wet a substrate.

Mueller fails to teach how to coat two wet layers simultaneously while keeping the layers separate and spread over the entirety of the surface. The present invention requires that the lower surface wet the substrate and it could be argued that Mueller may provide some guidance for this layer. Mueller fails to provide any guidance regarding a second layer, superimposed on the first layer, such that the second layer coats the first layer without the two wet layers intermingling.

Applicants respectfully submit that this teaching is absent from Mueller and can only be realized from the present disclosure while reviewing Mueller in hindsight.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Van den Zegel.

The failure of Sekiguchi to disclose simultaneous coating in a wet-on-wet fashion for a plurality of layers is set forth previously.

Van den Zegel discloses in claim 1:

"Method to provide a radiographic silver halide material by coating in consecutive order on at least one side of a support, covered with a hydrophobic subbing layer comprising as a latex copolymer a vinylidene chloride, methylacrylate and itaconic acid following hydrophilic layers:

at least one gelatinous dye containing layer comprising one or more dyes wherein the said dye(s) is(are) present in a total amount of not more than 300 mg/m² in an amount of hydrophilic binder such that the ratio by weight of dye to gelatin is between 0.4 and 1.3,

at least one silver halide emulsion layer,

at least one protective antistress layer, characterized in that said hydrophilic layers have a swelling ratio of not more than 200% and in that said hydrophilic layers are coated simultaneously by the slide-hopper coating or by the slide-hopper curtain coating technique."

Van den Zegal discloses a method for providing a radiographic silver halide material in which hydrophilic layers are coated simultaneously by slide-hopper or by the slide-hopper curtain coating technique. However, Van den Zegal does not give any hint or indication to alter the composition of simultaneously coated ink-receiving layers so that these layers have different compositions.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of Van den Zegal is improper. Removal is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending in the present application. All claims are in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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June 15, 2004